

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 13735 140721Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7834

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 13735

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: BBSR, BE
SUBJECT: IMPACT ON COMMERCIAL REPORTING FROM STAFF REDUCTION

REF: A) USDOC 12527 B) BRUSSELS 13522

1) EMBASSY MOST APPRECIATIVE OF CONCERN SHOWN BY COMMERCE
(REFTEL A) AS TO IMPACT OF STAFF LOSSES ON COMMERCIAL REPORTING.
FINAL REVISION OF 1979 CCP TAKES INTO ACCOUNT TO SOME EXTENT
ELIMINATION OF HEIMANN POSITION AND WE MAY HAVE TO MAKE FURTHER
MODIFICATIONS DURING FY 79 WHEN FULL EFFECT OF WEAKENED STAFF
IS FELT.

2. INSPECTORS HAD SUGGESTED THAT ANTWERP WTDRS BE CONTRACTED
OUT ON EXPERIMENTAL BASIS. AS REPORTED REFTEL B, WE ARE NOW
DOING SO JUST FOR ANTWERP WTDR REPORTING AND WILL CONTINUE
FOR ONE YEAR IN ORDER TO EVALUATE WHETHER DUN & BRADSTREET
BELGIUM CAN MAINTAIN SUFFICIENTLY HIGH STANDARDS FOR U.S.
BUSINESS USE. AT THIS TIME EMBASSY DOES NOT WISH SIMILAR
WTDR CONTRACTING FOR TWO REASONS. CONTRACTING MEANS A REAL
LOSS IN TERMS OF FREQUENT CONTACTS WITHIN THE BELGIAN BUSINESS
COMMUNITY AND AN INSULATION OF THIS MISSION FROM DAY TO DAY
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENTS. SECONDLY, VERY LITTLE OFFICER TIME IS
DEVOTED TO WTDR PREPARATION (FIVE MAN-DAYS FOR FY 79). OUR
PROBLEM IS INSUFFICIENT OFFICER STAFFING WITH A RESULTING LOSS
IN EFFECTIVE SUPERVISION AND SERVICES REQUIRING OFFICER TIME.
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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 13735 140721Z

3. CONTRACTING OF MARKET STUDIES DOES HELP TO COMPENSATE FOR
OFFICER LOSS. WE VERY MUCH APPRECIATE COMMERCE SUPPORT IN THIS
REGARD AND HOPE THAT FUNDING WILL CONTINUE TO BE MADE AVAILABLE
FOR THIS PURPOSE IN FUTURE YEARS. DE TARR

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Disposition Event:
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